

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 04154 201003Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 ICA-11 TRSE-00 DODE-00
/072 W

-----058477 210627Z /13

R 191434Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5910
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
USMISSION USNATO
USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE
USDOCOSOUTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 4154

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, NAC, GR
SUBJECT: NATO SUMMIT -- OPPOSITION LEADER QUESTIONS GREEK
PARTICIPATION

1. PROMPTED BY REPORTS THAT ECEVIT HAD REFUSED PRESIDENT
CARTER'S CALL FOR A NATO DECLARATION, PAPANDREOU PRESSED HIS
ATTEMPTS TO EMBARRASS THE GOG ON THE DEVELOPING GREEK-NATO
RELATIONSHIP. ON MAY 18 HE QUERIED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT
WOULD SIGN THE DECLARATION AND THEREBY ENTER INTO "NEW LONG-TERM
POLITICO-MILITARY COMMITMENTS" WITHOUT INFORMING THE GREEK
PEOPLE. IN ASKING IF THE GREEK DEFMIN WERE TO PARTICIPATE
IN THE SUMMIT, PAPANDREOU ALSO "WONDERED" WHETHER GREECE HAD
NOT ALREADY SECRETLY RETURNED TO NATO'S MILITARY STRUCTURE.

2. A GOG SPOKESMAN RESPONDED BRUSQUELY THAT PAPANDREOU
"SHOULD NOT WORRY," THE GOVERNMENT KNEW HOW TO PROTECT GREEK
INTERESTS, AND NOTED THAT MATTERS BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS SHOULD NOT
BE DISCUSSED PUBLICLY IN ADVANCE.

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3. COMMENT: THIS SALVO IS INDICATIVE OF THE ON-GOING CRITICISM
CARAMANLIS FACES FROM LEFTIST OPPONENTS -- AND PAPANDREOU IN
PARTICULAR -- AS HE DEALS WITH THE ISSUE OF NATO. ALTHOUGH THIS
TYPE OF ATTACK RARELY FAILS TO MAKE HEADLINES FOR PAPANDREOU,
IT WILL NOT DISSUADE THE GOG FROM PURSUING A STRENGTHENED
ALLIANCE CONNECTION.
MCCLOSKEY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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